

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05432 080822Z

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R 080740Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5524

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5432

PASS TREASURY EYES ONLY FOR PARSKY AND BOWDEN FROM HUMMON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USSAEC

SUBJECT: DIRECTOR/USREP MEETING WITH DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER

EMBASSY/JIDDA TRANSMITS USREP MESSAGE BEGIN QUOTE:

1. HAD TODAY MY THIRD AND MOST SATISFYING SESSION WITH DR. AL-TURKI. IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS, WHILE FRIENDLY AND GENERALLY FORWARD LOOKING, DR. AL-TURKI EXHIBITED CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY OVER PAST EVENTS. ALL OF THAT ABSENT TODAY, PERHAPS PARTICULARLY DUE TO THE FACT USREP STAFF HAD PREPARED DRAFT SCOPES OF WORK ON INFORMATION CENTER IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND RECRUITMENT OF RESEARCH ECONOMISTS FOR HIS MINISTRY. THESE PROPOSALS, GENERALLY FAMILIAR TO EMBASSY AND TO OSAA STAFF, WERE RAISED BY DR. AL-TURKI WITH ME LAST WEEK. DR. AL-TURKI VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THEM. DR. STURT OF USREP WHO IS LEAVING FOR THE STATES THIS WEEKEND WILL HANDCARRY DETAILS. COPY BEING FURNISHED EMBASSY. IT IS MY HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE QUICKLY ON THESE. DR. AL-TURKI HAS SUGGESTED POSSIBLE

MEANS OF ASSISTING WITH RECRUITMENT OF RESEARCH ECONOMISTS.

2. DR. AL-TURKI ONCE AGAIN SAID HE HAD DEPOSITED \$23 MILLION IN TRUST ACCOUNT FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT.

3. AL-TURKI SAID HE AND MR. AL-AMILLE PLANNED TO MOVE INTO THEIR OFFICES AT JECOR SOON. HE SAID AL-AMILLE WOULD BE HERE MUCH OF THE TIME AND THAT HE HOPED TO

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COME OVER OFTEN AS WELL. HE TOOK ME THROUGH HIS NEW

OFFICES IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WHICH ARE BEING PREPARED AND ARE ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED INFORMATION CENTER.

4. I SHOWED HIM OSAA TELEX 618 (HOTWIRE). HE SAID THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE WORK OF OAAI AND MR. CISLER AND HOPED THAT WE COULD CONTINUE TO USE THEM IN THE PROGRAM.

5. AL-TURKI ASKED IF USREP WOULD UPDATE THE REPORT PREPARED FOR THE LAST JOINT COMMISSION MEETING ON PROJECT STATUS. DR. AL-TURKI SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT QUICKLY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO VARIOUS OTHER MINISTRIES. I SAID THAT WE WOULD HAVE IT BY NEXT WEEK. I UNDERSTAND FROM A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH OSAA THAT OSAA IS PREPARING A PRESS RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION IN SEPTEMBER ON THE PROGRAM. I DID NOT DISCUSS THAT WITH AL-TURKI BUT THERE IS NO CONFLICT SINCE THE UPDATING THAT WOULD BE PREPARED FOR HIM WOULD BE FOR INTERNAL

USE IN THE MINISTRIES AND IS CLEARLY AN ATTEMPT BY HIM TO HIGHLIGHT THE FACT THAT PROGRESS HAS TAKEN PLACE. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO DRAW UPON THE LOCAL DOCUMENT IN THE LATER U.S. PRESS RELEASE.

WE WILL PREPARE AN UPDATE BASED ON MATERIALS LEFT HERE BY WOODWORTH AND INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF ACTIVITIES BY STAFF AT USREP. ANY PARTICULAR POINTS YOU SUGGEST WE HIGHLIGHT WOULD BE WELCOMED.

HIS REQUEST FOR THE UPDATING OF THE INFORMATION SHEET WAS A SWITCH FROM OUR FIRST MEETING AT WHICH HE SPOKE SOMEWHAT DISPARAGINGLY OF BROCHURES AND PUBLICITY.

6. DR. AL-TURKI IMPRESSES ME AS A MAN OF CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITIES. AS I HAVE REPORTED TO BOWDEN, HE WAS MOST EMPHATIC IN ONE SESSION ON THE NECESSITY OF ALL JOINT COMMISSION BUSINESS GOING THROUGH HIM AND HE MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF CRITICIZING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE PAST. HOWEVER, EVEN AFTER THE FIRST TWO SESSIONS I WAS CONVINCED THAT HE IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN THE JOINT COMMISSION AND WANTS TO MAKE IT WORK AND TODAY'S CONVERSATION WAS AN EVEN GREATER CONFIRMATION OF THAT. HUMMON END QUOTE.

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